

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057071
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
EB-08 AID-05 IGA-02 /069 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:AARENALES:LAR
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEE
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
EUR/WE:JSWIHART (SUBS)
-----150318Z 032611 /61

O 150228Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CG, AO, IT

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN REQUEST TO REPAIR MACCHI AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 054034 (NOTAL); KINSHASA 2184 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM ITALIANS ON MOBUTU'S INTER-
EST IN REPAIRING 11 OF HIS MACCHI AIRCRAFT SINCE CONVER-
SATION WITH ITALIAN EMBOFF REPORTED STATE 054034. REQUEST
EMBASSY INQUIRE AT FOREIGN OFFICE ABOUT THIS MATTER AND
MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A: WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO
ZAIRE'S REQUEST TO US FOR ASSISTANCE, AND ARE PRESENTLY
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PLANNING TO SEND AN INITIAL PLANELOAD OF EQUIPMENT AND
MEDICAL SUPPLIES (FYI NOT INCLUDING WEAPONS OR AMMUNITION.
END FYI).

B. OUR DECISION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT THE INCURSION
FROM ANGOLA IS PROBABLY MORE THAN JUST RETALIATORY; THERE
ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF WHAT

MIGHT BE LARGE OPERATION IS OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU, WITH CONSEQUENT THREAT TO STABILITY AND POSSIBLY TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE.

C. ZAIRE'S INITIAL PRIORITIES HAVE NOW BEEN SORTED OUT AND RELEVANCE OF REHABILITATION OF MACCHI'S TO ITS OVERALL EFFORT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED (EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON INFORMATION IN KINSHASA 2184).

D. UNLESS ITALIANS SPECIFICALLY ASK WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR SPARE PARTS, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THIS OFFER. IF RAISED, SIMPLY SAY YOU WILL PASS ON THE REQUEST.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION OF ITALIAN THINKING ON THIS MATTER ASAP.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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